AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-5 without prejudice.

Please enter new Claims 6-33.

1 – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A water ride attraction for supporting a rider performing water skimming maneuvers, comprising:

a substantially stationary riding surface;

a flowing body of water flowing over the riding surface in a predetermined flow direction;

the riding surface having a substantially planar portion, followed in the flow direction by a concave upwardly inclined portion and a substantially upwardly convex ridge portion;

the flowing body of water on the riding surface having a predetermined velocity and volume sufficient to cause the flow to generally conform to the contours of the riding surface, the flow flowing onto the planar portion and on to the upwardly inclined portion, and then on to the convex ridge portion;

wherein a rider can ride upon the flowing body of water over the inclined and convex portions of the riding surface.

7. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 6, wherein the ride surface comprises a downwardly inclined portion upstream of the planar portion.

8. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the ride surface comprises a second downwardly inclined portion downstream of the ridge portion, and the water flows onto the second downwardly inclined portion after flowing over the ridge portion.

9. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 8 additionally comprising a shutdown floor adjacent the second downwardly inclined portion, the shutdown floor comprising drains configured to drain off the water.

10. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 9, wherein the shutdown floor comprises a grate.

11. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 9, wherein a rider can ride over the ridge portion, onto the second downwardly inclined portion, and on to the shutdown floor.

12. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the flowing body of water is a sheet flow of water.

13. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the planar portion of the riding surface is substantially horizontal.

14. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 13, wherein the horizontal portion is positioned immediately downstream of the upstream downwardly inclined portion and immediately upstream of the upwardly inclined portion.

15. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity.

16. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 7, wherein the water flow has insufficient velocity to maintain a supercritical velocity over the entire width of the upwardly inclined portion so that at least a portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

17. (New) A water ride attraction for enabling a rider to perform water skimming maneuvers, comprising:

a substantially stationary flow shaping surface;

a flowing body of water flowing over the surface in a predetermined flow direction;

the flow shaping surface having a downwardly inclined portion, followed in the flow direction by a transition portion, an upwardly inclined portion, and a ridge portion;

the water flow having a predetermined velocity and volume sufficient to cause the flow to generally conform to the contours of the flow shaping surface, the water flowing onto the downwardly inclined portion and on to the transition portion, the upwardly inclined portion, and over the ridge portion;

wherein a rider can ride upon the water flow over at least the upwardly inclined portion of the surface.

18. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity.

19. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the water flow has insufficient velocity to maintain a supercritical velocity over the entire width of the upwardly inclined portion so that at least a portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

20. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 19, wherein a portion of the water flow has sufficient velocity to flow over the upwardly inclined portion and over the ridge portion while maintaining a supercritical velocity, while another portion of the flow reaches a subcritical velocity over the upwardly inclined portion.

21. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the upwardly inclined portion is concave upwardly.

22. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 21, wherein the ridge portion is convex upwardly.

23. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the transition portion is substantially horizontal.

24. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the transition portion is substantially planar.

25. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 21, wherein the water flow has a sub-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are greater than gravitational forces, a supra-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are less than gravitational forces, and an equilibrium flow area between the sub-equidyne and supra-equidyne flow areas, drag forces on the rider in the equilibrium flow area being substantially balanced by gravitational forces, wherein by selective control of the rider's body and/or a ride vehicle the rider can perform oscillating water skimming maneuvers whereby the rider oscillates between the sub-equidyne, equilibrium and supra-equidyne flow areas.

26. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the flow shaping surface additionally comprises a second downwardly inclined portion downstream of the ridge portion,

and the water flows onto the second downwardly inclined portion after flowing over the ridge portion.

27. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 26, wherein a rider can ride over the ridge portion and onto the second downwardly inclined portion.

28. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 27 additionally comprising a shutdown floor downstream of the second downwardly inclined portion, the shutdown floor comprising a drain configured to drain off the water flow.

29. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 28, wherein the shutdown floor comprises a grate.

30. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the flow shaping surface has a lateral edge, and at least a portion of the water flow flowing over the upwardly inclined portion flows over the lateral edge.

31. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 30, wherein the flow shaping surface is configured so that the rider can ride the water flowing over the lateral edge.

32. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 31 additionally comprising an exit area adjacent the lateral edge.

33. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 17, wherein the ridge portion of the flow shaping surface is inclined in a direction transverse to the water flow.